UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1992/59
7 January 1992

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-eighth session
Item 18 of the provisional agenda

RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL, ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

Letter dated 2 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

I have the honour to forward (enclosed) the text of the Declaration on the Rights of Nationalities in Ukraine passed by the Ukrainian Parliament on 1 November 1991. This document has attracted great attention from many members of the Commission [on Human Rights] and of the working group on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities which resumed work on 2 December 1991.

[Signed] Andrei OZADOVSKI
Permanent Representative of Ukraine

GE.92-10085/8300a

DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF NATIONALITIES IN UKRAINE

The Supreme Council of Ukraine,

Proceeding from the Declaration of Sovereign Statehood of Ukraine and the Act proclaiming the independence of Ukraine,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international accords on individual rights and freedoms that Ukraine has ratified,

Seeking the consolidation in an independent, democratic Ukraine of the hallowed principles of liberty, humanism, social justice and equal rights for all the [constituent] ethnic groups of the people of Ukraine,

Bearing in mind the fact that citizens of more than 100 nationalities, constituting, together with Ukrainians, the 52 million-strong population of the country, inhabit Ukrainian territory,

Adopts the present Declaration on the Rights of Nationalities in Ukraine:

Article 1

The Ukrainian State guarantees all peoples, national groups and citizens inhabiting its territory equal political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Representatives of peoples and national groups shall be elected on an equal footing to organs of State power at every level and may hold any post in organs of government, businesses, institutions and organizations.

Discrimination on grounds of national traits is prohibited and punishable by law.

Article 2

The Ukrainian State guarantees all nationalities the right to maintain their traditional [patterns of] settlement and shall make provision for national administrative entities; it undertakes to create the requisite conditions for the development of all national languages and cultures.

Article 3

The Ukrainian State guarantees all peoples and national groups the right to make free use of their native languages in all areas of public life, including education, production and the acquisition and distribution of information.

The Supreme Council of Ukraine interprets article 3 of the Act "On Languages in the Ukrainian SSR" to mean that within administrative-cum-territorial entities densely inhabited by [persons of] a particular nationality, their language may be used alongside the State language.

The Ukrainian State shall safeguard the right of its citizens to make free use of the Russian language. In districts densely inhabited by [members of] several national groups, any language acceptable to the entire population of the area may be used alongside Ukrainian, the State language.

Article 4

The right of all Ukrainian citizens of every nationality to profess their religion, make use of their national symbols, celebrate their national holidays and take part in their peoples' traditional rituals is guaranteed.

Article 5

Monuments to the history and culture of peoples and national groups in Ukrainian territory shall be protected by law.

Article 6

The Ukrainian State guarantees all nationalities the right to establish their own cultural centres, societies, regional associations and amalgamations. Such organizations may engage in activities with a view to the development of their national culture, organize mass events as permitted by law, help to establish national newspapers, periodicals, publishing houses, museums, artists' collectives, theatres and film studios.

Article 7

National cultural centres and societies and members of national minorities shall have the right to unrestricted contact with their historical homelands.

SUPREME COUNCIL OF UKRAINE
1 November 1991